

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16, and 18 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action mailed February 27, 2006 (“the Office Action”), the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,427,140 to Ginter et al. (“Ginter”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,430 to Noel et al. (“Noel”).

Applicant and the undersigned thank the Examiner for granting a personal interview on April 26, 2006, and for the courtesies extended during the interview. Based on the discussion with respect to Noel in the interview, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16, 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter in view of Noel.

Claim 1 recites level-one page table entries each containing a predefined attribute, the predefined attribute being operable to indicate to the memory management unit whether entries in a corresponding level-two page table may designate certain predefined memory regions. The Examiner contends that Ginter does not specifically disclose a memory management system utilizing a level-one table and a level-two table, but finds such limitations in Noel. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s conclusion that Noel teaches the above-discussed limitations in claim 1.

The passages in Noel cited by the Examiner simply teach a two-level memory structure. For example, one section (column 12, lines 30-36) cited by the Examiner indicates that “each level one page table entry maps a page at the next lower level in the page table structure, for example, one of the level two page table pages ...”. In this section, Noel may describe a two-level memory structure, but fails to teach or suggest “the level-one page table entries each containing a predefined attribute, the predefined attribute being operable to indicate to the memory management unit whether entries in a

corresponding level-two page table may designate certain predefined memory regions"
(emphasis added).

Similarly, another section of Noel (column 12, lines 48-55) cited by the Examiner indicates that the memory management unit 20 translates the virtual address into a physical address based on the contents of the fields with the virtual address. This section also fails to teach the limitation that the predefined attribute is operable "to indicate to the memory management unit whether entries in a corresponding level-two page table may designate certain predefined memory regions" (emphasis added). The remainder of Noel also fails to teach or suggest the limitations discussed above. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Ginter in view of Noel.

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, and 10 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Independent claim 11 has limitations similar to the above-discussed limitations of claim 1. Thus, independent claim 11 is also patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1.

Dependent claims 12-14, 15, 16, and 18 depend from independent claim 11, and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 11.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16, and 18 are in allowable condition, and respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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Respectfully submitted,

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